

# ASPIRA

ASSOCIATION, INC.



## ASPIRA, INC., OF NEW JERSEY PROGRAMS, 1991

### Leadership Development Program

The primary mission of ASPIRA of New Jersey is the development of a better educated and more community conscious Hispanic youth. Leadership development begins at the school level through a network of democratically organized and student operated clubs. ASPIRA Clubs promote the ideals of community service and citizenship, and provide students with an organizational structure from which they can learn effective problem-solving methods. Clubs plan visits to local colleges, organize field trips to museums, conduct bake sales and dances to raise money, and hold workshops on topics of concern such as pregnancy prevention and alcoholism.

### Early Intervention Program

The ASPIRA Early Intervention Program works to prevent high dropout rates by targeting students at the middle school level. Counselors are currently working with students at Pyne Point Middle School in Camden, Junior High School #2 in Trenton, and Broadway Middle School in Newark. Counselors prevent students from dropping out by encouraging them to seek tutoring and attend pre-college programs as well as keeping them involved in ASPIRA Activities. Students are motivated to think seriously about their futures, and in the process complete junior high school.

### Math and Science Program

The ASPIRA Math and Science Program focuses on developing students' skills in math and science by providing tutorial services on a daily basis. Two math and science conferences were organized to make students aware of educational and career opportunities in these fields. One of these was specifically held for middle school students as part of early intervention efforts.

### Counseling Program

ASPIRA counselors make students aware of the opportunities that are available to them in higher education through counseling, workshops, and seminars or conferences. Students also participate in Career Day Conferences, where they learn about educational programs and careers from Hispanic professionals and educators.

### Talent Search Program

The Talent Search Program offers a wide range of services that assist youth in planning their education and career development. Focus is placed on college placement, leadership development, and assisting students who have dropped out of high school in obtaining their GED and seeking higher education.

### Cultural Awareness

ASPIRA believes that young people cannot succeed unless they are aware and proud of their cultural heritage. To accomplish this, ASPIRA sponsors many activities during the year to expose students to their own culture. Students attend conferences and field trips, and participate in the ASPIRA Dance Troupe, which performs folkloric dances at schools, colleges, and community centers around the state.

### **National Health Careers Program**

The ASPIRA National Health Careers Program is coordinated by the National Office and implemented through this office. Its primary objective is to increase the number of Latino and other minority youth entering health profession schools. The program has two components, the pre-health professions unit and the health professions unit. Counselors work with students at the secondary and post-secondary levels, providing a comprehensive network of services that includes SAT and MCAT review courses, college placement assistance, career and financial aid counseling, college and health conferences, workshops on the medical school application process, and trips to medical schools. The program is currently funded by the U.S Public Health Service Administration.

### **Public Policy Leadership Program**

The ASPIRA Public Policy Leadership Program is coordinated by the ASPIRA National Office and implemented through this office. The program works with Hispanic high school students to help them learn about the process of public policy formulation and to develop leadership skills that will facilitate their entry into the public policy arena on local, regional, and national levels. The APPLP is designed as a comprehensive program that includes leadership orientation, community service experience, and national internships. The program is funded by the Ford Foundation.

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